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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR
20 Union Street Augusta, Maine 04330
BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
Division of Economic Analysis and Research

LABOR MARKET DIGEST

JUNE 1985

A Labor Market Information Newsletter on Maine Economic Activity

UI CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY IN AUGUST 1985

A SPECIAL COMMEMORATION WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 14, 1985 IN WASHINGTON, D.C. TO CELEBRATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI) SYSTEM.

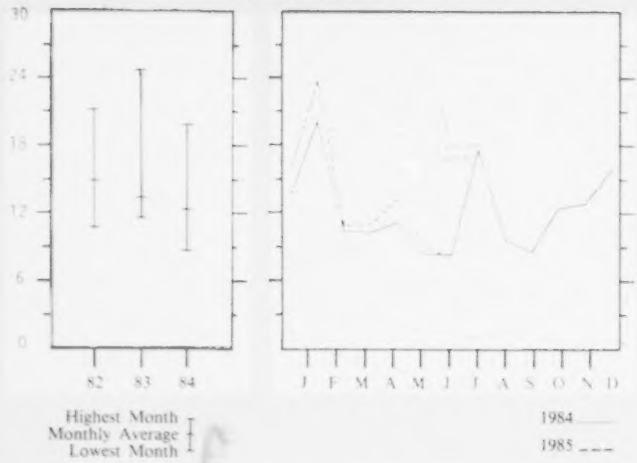
IN 1935 WHEN IT APPROVED THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT, THE U.S. CONGRESS PAVED THE WAY FOR A NATIONWIDE PROGRAM OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WHICH WAS DESIGNED TO PROTECT WORKERS AGAINST THE RISK OF WAGE LOSS WHEN OUT OF WORK. THIS LAW WAS SIGNED BY THEN PRESIDENT FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT ON AUGUST 14, 1935. IN THAT SAME YEAR, THE MAINE LEGISLATURE PASSED ENABLING LEGISLATION WHICH WAS MODELED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT. THUS, MAINE'S UI SYSTEM WAS BORN. IT IS THE PRODUCT OF FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATION WHICH RECOGNIZES THAT THERE ARE BOTH NATIONAL AND LOCAL CONCERNS OVER UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE MEASURES NEEDED TO ALLEVIATE IT.

NOW IN ITS 50TH YEAR, UI HAS BECOME ONE OF MAINE'S AND AMERICA'S MOST SUCCESSFUL SOCIAL PROGRAMS. IT HAS FULFILLED ITS MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF PROVIDING SHORT-TERM FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THOSE WHO LOSE THEIR JOBS AND ARE LOOKING FOR WORK. AT THE SAME TIME, THE UI PROGRAM HAS AIDED THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY BY ACTING AS A STABILIZER FOR THE ECONOMY DURING PERIODS OF HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT, THEREBY MITIGATING THE EFFECTS OF RECESSIONARY PRESSURES.

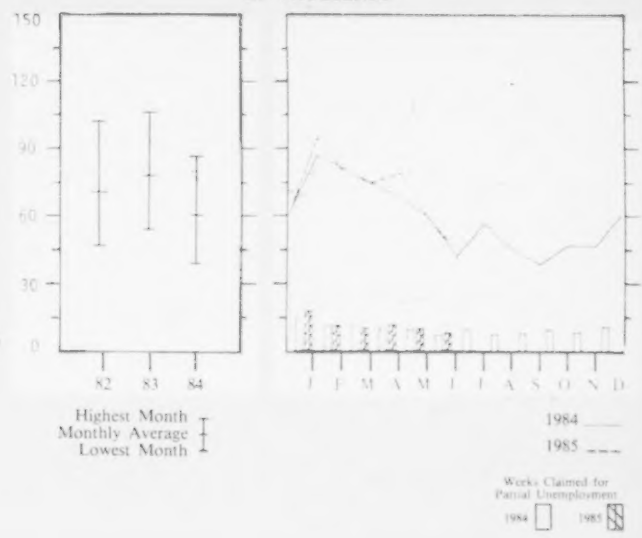
THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT BENEFITS OF THE UI SYSTEM HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANT. DIRECTLY, UI HAS HELPED PAY BASIC LIVING EXPENSES WHEN WORKERS ARE UNEMPLOYED THROUGH NO FAULT OF THEIR OWN. IT HAS PRESERVED MORALE AND TAKEN THE PANIC OUT OF JOB HUNTING BY EASING THE PERSONAL HARDSHIPS OF WORKERS BECOMING UNEMPLOYED. UI HAS MAINTAINED OCCUPATIONAL SKILL LEVELS BY ALLOWING REASONABLE TIME TO FIND EMPLOYMENT TO MATCH WORKERS' TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE. IN SO DOING, UI HAS ENABLED EMPLOYERS TO KEEP THEIR SKILLED AND TRAINED WORKERS AVAILABLE FOR RECALL WHEN PRODUCTION RESUMES. PERHAPS UI'S GREATEST DIRECT EFFECT HAS BEEN TO HELP STABILIZE BUYING POWER

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

UI Initial Claims
in Thousands



UI Intrastate Weeks Claimed
in Thousands



DURING ECONOMIC FLUCTUATIONS SINCE WELL OVER $900 MILLION HAS BEEN PAID TO FORMER MAINE WORKERS FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE PROGRAM THROUGH 1984. THESE PAYMENTS HAVE PROVIDED EFFECTIVE AND TIMELY CAPITAL INFUSIONS TO SUSTAIN THE ECONOMY WHILE HELPING TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

INDIRECTLY, UI HAS PROVIDED RELIABLE AND CURRENT INFORMATION ON EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, WAGES, AND OTHER ECONOMIC STATISTICS. IN TODAY'S COMPLEX AND DYNAMIC ECONOMY, THE UI PROGRAM AFFORDS AN INVALUABLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR POLICY MAKERS AND MANAGERS IN SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND BUSINESS PLANNING. THE UI PROGRAM FORMS THE CORNERSTONE OF THE LABOR MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEM WHICH IS REGULARLY USED BY MAINE EMPLOYERS TO ASSIST IN PROBLEM SOLVING AND STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR MARKET DEVELOPMENT, WAGE STRUCTURES AND NEGOTIATIONS, SITE LOCATION, AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, AND FEDERAL PROCUREMENT PREFERENCE DETERMINATIONS.

AS PART OF THE COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES TO CELEBRATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UI SYSTEM, THE DEPARTMENT HAS PREPARED A PUBLICATION ENTITLED "MAJOR LEGISLATIVE CHANGES IN THE MAINE EMPLOYMENT SECURITY LAW, 1936 TO 1984." THIS REPORT TRACES THE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES OCCURRING WITHIN EACH MAJOR SECTION OF MAINE'S UI SYSTEM FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE PROGRAM. IT ALSO CONTAINS THE KEY BENEFIT AND CONTRIBUTION STATISTICS IN BOTH TABULAR AND GRAPHIC FORM. UI LEGISLATION HAS BEEN AMENDED FREQUENTLY OVER THE YEARS AND MODIFICATIONS HAVE BEEN NECESSARY TO KEEP THE SYSTEM RESPONSIVE TO EXISTING CONDITIONS; OTHERS HAVE STEMMED FROM CHANGES IN EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND EARNINGS. BY PROVIDING A CHRONOLOGY OF THE CHANGES IN BENEFITS, TAXATION, COVERAGE, WAITING PERIOD, DISQUALIFICATIONS, ENTITLEMENT, AND BASE PERIOD PROVISIONS, THE PUBLICATION IS AN INFORMATIVE REFERENCE SOURCE FOR EMPLOYERS, LEGISLATORS, ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF, AND OTHERS INTERESTED IN THE UI SYSTEM.

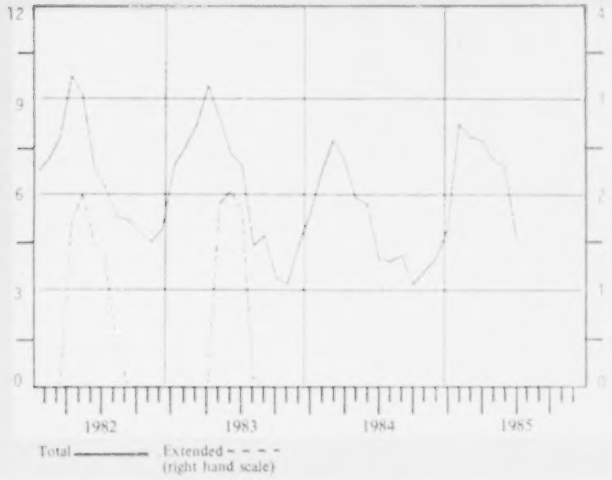
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

Selected Employment Security Activities

UI Benefit Payments

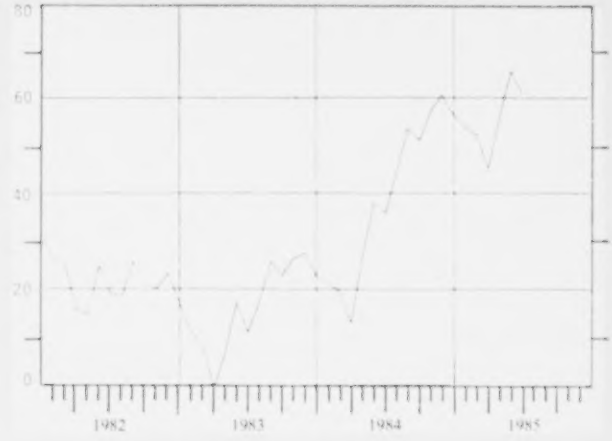
in Million Dollars

(Total Includes Maine's Portion of Extended Benefits)



Unemployment Compensation Fund Balance in Millions

(End of Month)



Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work

in Thousands

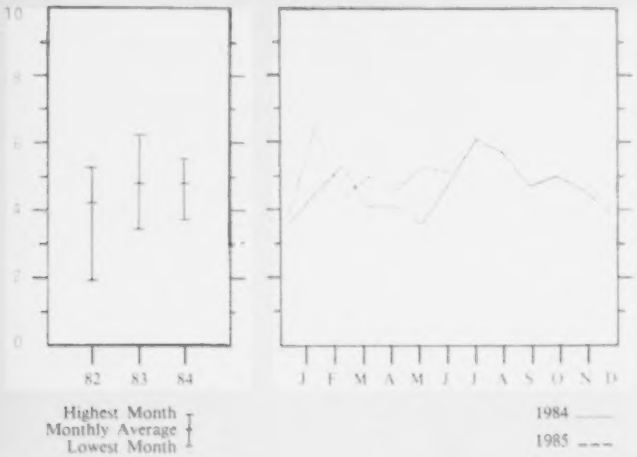
ITEM	STATEWIDE This Month	STATEWIDE Last Month	STATEWIDE Year Ago	PORTLAND MSA This Month	PORTLAND MSA Last Month	PORTLAND MSA Year Ago	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA This Month	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA Last Month	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment 1/	463.5	429.5	457.0	107.3	105.1	103.9	36.6	36.3	37.1
Total Manufacturing	107.7	104.6	113.6	16.7	16.4	16.4	11.2	10.7	11.9
Durable Goods	44.4	42.5	45.0	9.7	9.5	9.4	5.6	5.4	5.1
Lumber and Wood Products 2/	13.4	11.7	14.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.1
Primary and Fabricated Metals	3.9	3.9	3.8	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.4	0.3	0.3
Machinery, except Electrical	4.1	4.0	4.2	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.3	0.3	0.3
Electrical and Electronic Equipment	9.8	9.7	9.7	3.3	3.3	3.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
Transportation Equipment	9.5	9.5	9.6	[d]	[d]	[d]	0.1	0.1	0.1
Other Durable Goods 3/	3.7	3.7	3.6	1.2	1.2	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.3
Nondurable Goods	63.3	62.1	68.6	7.0	6.9	7.0	5.6	5.3	6.8
Food and Kindred Products	8.2	8.0	7.6	2.0	1.9	2.0	0.5	0.5	0.5
Textile Mill Products	6.8	6.8	7.1	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.4	1.4	1.6
Apparel	4.3	4.3	4.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Paper and Allied Products	18.2	17.9	18.8	[d]	[d]	[d]	0.8	0.7	0.9
Printing and Publishing	4.6	4.7	4.5	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.6	0.6	0.6
Rubber and Misc. Plastic Products	4.4	4.2	4.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.0	1.9	2.0
Leather and Leather Products	15.2	16.0	18.8	1.7	1.7	1.8	2.9	2.9	3.6
Footwear (except Rubber)	12.5	13.3	16.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.1	2.1	3.0
Other Leather Products	2.7	2.7	2.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.8	0.8	0.6
Other Nondurable Goods 4/	1.4	1.3	1.3	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.2
Total Nonmanufacturing	355.8	344.9	344.7	90.4	88.7	87.1	25.4	25.6	25.2
Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	*	*	*	0.0	0.0	*
Contract Construction	23.3	21.6	22.1	6.1	5.9	5.5	1.6	1.5	1.6
Transportation and Public Utilities	20.0	19.6	19.9	5.8	5.9	5.7	1.4	1.4	1.4
Wholesale Trade	20.6	20.4	20.5	8.0	7.9	7.8	2.1	2.0	2.0
Retail Trade	90.0	84.3	85.5	22.3	21.8	22.0	6.1	6.4	6.4
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	28.8	30.5	29.8	9.4	9.7	9.6	1.0	1.8	1.6
Services	96.3	93.3	92.5	25.9	24.1	22.9	9.9	9.9	9.5
Government	84.4	85.0	83.9	13.9	14.2	13.4	3.5	3.6	3.5
Federal	18.5	18.3	18.5	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.1	0.1	0.1
State and Local 5/	65.9	66.7	65.3	12.2	12.5	11.8	3.2	3.3	3.2
Involved in Labor-Management Disputes	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

1/ Employment figures relate to full - and part-time wage and salary workers in pay periods including the 12th of the month. Domestic workers in private households, proprietors, self-employed, and unpaid family workers are excluded. 2/ Lumber and wood products, and furniture and fixtures are combined in the Portland series. 3/ Includes Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes: Statewide - 25, 32, 38, 39; Portland - 32, 38, 39; Lewiston - 25, 32, 39. 4/ Includes SIC codes: Statewide - 28, 29; Portland - 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30; Lewiston - 23, 28, 29. 5/ Regular teachers are included in summer months whether or not specifically paid in those months. n/a - data not available in sufficient detail for publication. *Less than 100. (d) Nondisclosure item.

THESE DATA ARE COMPILED BY THE MAINE BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

New Applications For Work

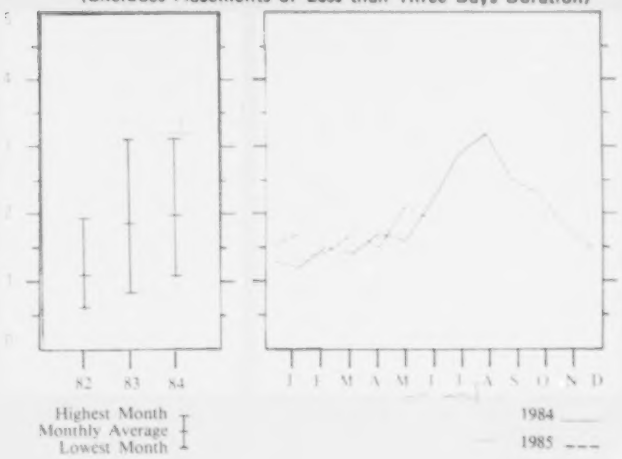
in Thousands



Nonfarm Placements

in Thousands

(Excludes Placements of Less than Three Days Duration)



Earnings and Workweek of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries

AREA AND INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS			ANNUAL AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	1984	1983	1982
STATEWIDE												
Manufacturing	$334.06	$332.43	$316.79	40.4	40.1	40.1	$ 8.31	$ 8.29	$ 7.90	$ 8.05	$ 7.61	$ 7.22
Durable Goods	337.31	334.00	321.20	40.5	40.0	40.0	8.37	8.36	8.03	8.22	7.84	7.59
Lumber and Wood Products	312.87	308.59	290.07	40.9	41.2	39.9	7.67	7.49	7.27	7.51	7.31	6.97
Primary and Fabricated Metals	322.50	343.62	324.41	39.1	41.3	41.0	8.25	8.32	7.91	7.99	7.75	7.62
Machinery, except Electrical	375.90	361.53	347.27	42.0	40.4	40.1	8.95	8.95	8.66	8.36	8.08	7.52
Electrical and Electronic Equipment	301.32	289.45	299.30	39.7	38.8	39.6	7.59	7.46	7.52	7.56	7.27	6.74
Other Durable Goods	363.27	379.06	362.96	39.8	39.2	39.9	9.63	9.67	9.12	9.51	9.21	8.94
Nondurable Goods	330.45	331.25	314.36	40.2	40.2	40.2	8.27	8.24	7.82	7.96	7.37	7.00
Food and Kindred Products	249.08	248.32	252.67	36.9	37.0	37.6	6.76	6.71	6.72	6.46	6.10	5.84
Textile Mill Products	274.96	277.56	260.32	41.6	41.9	42.0	6.61	6.64	6.96	6.73	6.87	5.49
Apparel	201.58	204.05	192.31	38.4	38.0	38.5	5.86	5.93	5.42	5.55	5.39	5.23
Paper and Allied Products	532.80	539.02	516.35	44.4	44.4	44.9	12.00	12.14	11.50	11.62	10.96	10.10
Leather and Leather Products	224.96	222.59	216.75	38.0	37.6	37.5	5.92	5.92	5.78	5.80	5.59	5.46
Other Nondurable Goods	296.80	294.62	276.63	40.0	39.6	39.9	7.42	7.44	6.95	7.11	6.60	6.23
PORTLAND MSA												
Manufacturing	346.82	346.54	331.09	39.1	39.2	39.5	8.87	8.81	8.09	8.08	7.67	7.19
LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA												
Manufacturing	267.47	267.42	248.32	40.3	39.5	39.9	6.67	6.77	6.40	6.58	6.16	5.96

Female Labor Force in Maine

in Thousands

ITEM	This Month 1/	Last Month 1/	Year Ago 2/
Labor Force	251.7	243.1	242.9
Unemployed	15.3	14.2	16.0
(Percent)	6.1	5.8	6.6
Resident Employed	236.4	228.9	226.5

U.S. Consumer Price Index

BASE PERIOD	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	Last Dec.
(1967=100) All Items	322.3	321.3	310.7	315.5

Percent Change for Past Month	+0.3
Percent Change from Last December	+2.2
Percent Change from 12 Months Ago	+3.7

1/ Preliminary estimates 2/ Revised

Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment

in Thousands

AREA 1/	LABOR FORCE 2/			RESIDENT EMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYMENT Number			UNEMPLOYMENT Percent of Labor Force		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
MAINE-Statewide	578.3	561.8	565.8	549.7	531.6	535.1	28.6	30.2	30.7	4.9	5.4	5.4
MAJOR LABOR MARKETS												
Bangor MSA	48,000	48,800	45,600	46,100	46,800	43,600	1,900	2,000	2,000	4.0	4.1	4.4
Lewiston-Auburn MSA	43,000	42,800	42,700	40,400	40,200	40,100	2,600	2,600	2,600	6.0	6.1	6.1
Portland MSA	109,700	107,800	105,200	106,600	104,700	101,400	3,100	3,100	3,800	2.8	2.9	3.6
Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA 3/	109,770	105,520	108,030	104,990	100,590	101,140	4,780	4,930	6,890	4.4	4.7	6.4
OTHER LABOR MARKETS												
Augusta	31,960	31,860	31,900	30,520	30,420	30,160	1,440	1,440	1,740	4.5	4.5	5.5
Bath-Brunswick	26,260	26,150	27,030	25,260	25,180	25,870	1,000	970	1,160	3.8	3.7	4.3
Belfast	11,380	10,930	11,460	10,360	9,820	10,420	1,020	1,110	1,040	9.0	10.2	9.1
Biddeford	26,690	25,530	25,080	25,610	24,420	23,930	1,080	1,110	1,150	4.0	4.3	4.6
Boothbay Harbor-Wiscasset	10,520	9,150	10,580	10,100	8,720	10,040	420	430	540	4.0	4.7	5.1
Calais-Eastport	16,090	15,530	16,030	14,880	14,210	14,650	1,210	1,320	1,380	7.5	8.5	8.6
Caribou-Presque Isle	22,780	21,890	22,460	21,040	20,240	20,260	1,740	1,650	2,200	7.6	7.5	9.8
Central Penobscot	4,630	4,350	4,310	4,380	4,100	4,130	250	250	180	5.4	5.7	4.2
Dover-Foxcroft	6,810	6,780	6,740	6,480	6,420	6,360	330	360	380	4.8	5.3	5.6
Ellsworth	25,050	22,700	24,620	23,950	21,430	23,290	1,100	1,270	1,330	4.4	5.6	5.4
Farmington	12,640	12,610	13,160	11,530	11,340	12,180	1,110	1,270	980	8.8	10.1	7.4
Fort Kent-Allagash	7,000	5,490	6,540	6,220	4,690	5,920	780	800	620	11.1	14.6	9.5
Greenville	1,700	1,420	1,650	1,590	1,260	1,570	110	160	80	6.5	11.3	4.8
Houlton	6,220	5,710	5,820	5,810	5,270	5,440	410	440	380	6.6	7.7	6.5
Kittery-York 3/	25,090	24,140	23,650	24,790	23,770	23,120	300	370	530	1.2	1.5	2.2
Lincoln-Howland	6,510	6,340	6,230	6,140	5,930	5,910	370	410	320	5.7	6.5	5.1
Livermore Falls	3,690	3,420	3,830	3,340	3,060	3,500	350	360	330	9.5	10.5	8.6
Madawaska-Van Buren	4,860	4,330	4,860	4,500	3,980	4,430	360	350	430	7.4	8.1	8.8
Millinocket-East Millinocket	5,850	5,730	5,640	5,580	5,470	5,430	270	260	210	4.6	4.5	3.7
Norway-Paris	9,610	9,290	9,630	8,960	8,630	8,940	650	660	690	6.8	7.1	7.2
Patten-Island Falls	3,100	2,700	2,760	2,910	2,440	2,600	190	260	160	6.1	9.6	5.8
Rockland	19,530	18,970	19,670	18,630	17,880	18,560	900	1,090	1,110	4.6	5.7	5.6
Rumford	10,120	9,990	9,930	9,420	9,170	9,130	700	820	800	6.9	8.2	8.1
Sanford	13,780	13,540	13,580	12,730	12,420	12,850	1,050	1,120	730	7.6	8.3	5.4
Sebago Lakes Region	10,640	10,010	10,180	10,230	9,600	9,780	410	410	400	3.9	4.1	3.9
Skowhegan	23,520	22,660	23,450	21,850	20,770	21,850	1,670	1,890	1,600	7.1	8.3	6.8
Southwest Penobscot	8,970	8,750	8,710	8,220	8,020	8,030	750	730	680	8.4	8.3	7.8
Waterville	22,760	22,660	22,980	21,650	21,400	21,750	1,110	1,260	1,230	4.9	5.6	5.4
OTHER NEW ENGLAND STATES												
Connecticut	n/a	1,703.1	1,682.2	n/a	1,621.9	1,610.4	n/a	81.2	71.8	n/a	4.8	4.3
Massachusetts	3,139.0	3,072.0	3,083.8	3,016.0	2,967.0	2,945.9	123.0	105.0	137.9	3.9	3.4	4.5
New Hampshire	543.2	526.3	529.5	519.1	502.7	508.9	24.1	23.6	20.6	4.4	4.5	3.9
Rhode Island	503.4	493.9	491.1	477.0	469.4	459.8	26.4	24.5	31.3	5.2	5.0	6.4
Vermont	272.2	271.2	268.7	258.9	258.4	253.4	13.3	12.8	15.3	4.9	4.7	5.7
NEW ENGLAND STATES	n/a	6,066.5	6,055.3	n/a	5,819.4	5,778.4	n/a	247.1	276.9	n/a	4.1	4.6
UNITED STATES 4/	116,572	114,890	115,393	107,819	106,880	106,812	8,753	8,011	8,582	7.5	7.0	7.4

MSA-Metropolitan Statistical Area

Note
n/a indicates that the information was not available at the time of printing.
Employment and unemployment may not add to labor force due to rounding.

Footnotes

1/ Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for all areas not seasonally adjusted. Estimates made independently for each labor market area have been benchmarked to and extrapolated from the Current Population Survey estimates for the state. All data adjusted to place of residence basis. Excludes members of the Armed Forces.

2/ Current and last month figures preliminary; year ago figures revised.

3/ Kittery-York is the eight-town Maine portion of the Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA which includes towns in both Maine and New Hampshire.

4/ National estimates based on a sample of household visits; state estimates based on enlargements of employment figures reported.

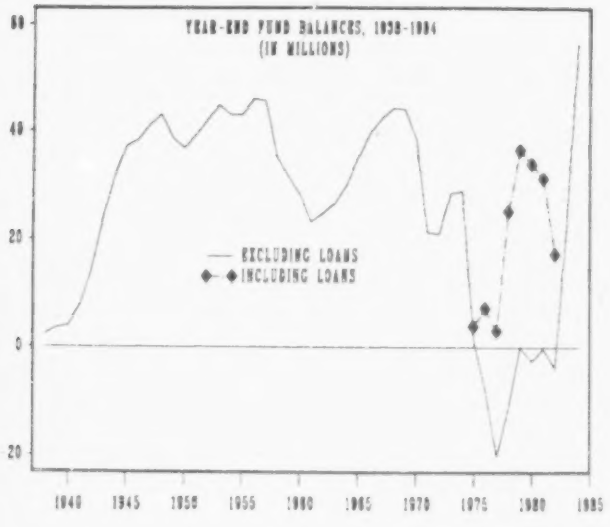
THESE DATA ARE COMPILED BY THE MAINE BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

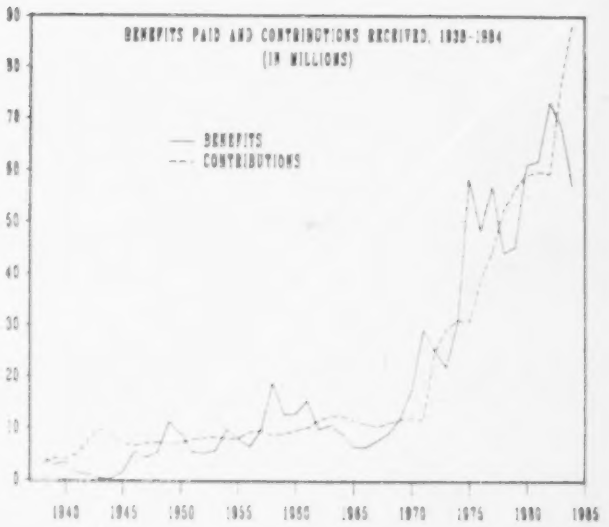
Mid-Month Insured Unemployment (Less Partials)

ITEM	STATEWIDE			PORTLAND MSA			LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
Number of Continued-Week Claimants	9,148	10,869	8,788	922	1,041	1,027	907	972	817
Insured Unemployment Rate *	2.1	2.5	2.0	1.0	1.2	1.2	2.6	2.8	2.3

* Should not be confused with insured unemployment rates as defined in the Employment Security Law.

SOME OF THE MAJOR ASPECTS OF MAINE'S UI SYSTEM ARE PORTRAYED BELOW AND INDICATE THE DEGREE OF CHANGE EXPERIENCED OVER THE PROGRAM'S HISTORY.





THIS AND OTHER INFORMATION REGARDING MAINE'S UI SYSTEM IS PRESENTED IN THE PUBLICATION JUST DESCRIBED; COPIES MAY BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING THE MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY, DIVISION OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH, 20 UNION STREET, AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330, OR TELEPHONE (207) 289-2271.

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20 Union Street Augusta, Maine 04330

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